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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officers and Superintendent,

WITH THE

ACCOUNTS OF THE TREASURER

OF THE

THORPE LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE YEAR 1855.

NORWICH:

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MEDICAL OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1855,

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE NORFOLK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

GENTLEMEN,

We, the Medical Officers of the County Lunatic Asylum, beg leave to present the subjoined Report of the condition of the inmates during the year ending December 31st, 1855.

The admissions during the year have amounted to 76, namely, 28 male and 48 female patients. The number in the Asylum on December 31st, 1854, was 300, namely, 137 male, and 163 female patients. The whole number under our care during 1855 has been 376, namely, 165 males and 211 females; the average number daily resident has been 296, viz., 135 males and 161 females.

The number of deaths in 1855 has been 32,—12 males and 20 females; and the number of discharges 51,—18 males and 33 females; of these, 34, or 12 males and 22 females, have recovered; 14, or 5 males and 9 females, were relieved; and 3, or 1 male and 2 females, were not improved.

Admissions.

It will be seen by Table 2, that the admissions of this year are rather below the average of those ten years during which the present law may be said to have existed, the effect of which has been to crowd the wards, especially on the female side of the house; this, however, has been somewhat lessened by the discharge of harmless chronic patients, which has been pressed upon the attention of the Resident Medical Officer by Rule 42, suggested by the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Committee, when the

Discharge of harmless patients.

Rules under revision were referred to the Commissioners by the Secretary of State. Rule 42 directs that

> "He shall at all times, and more especially when the asylum is entirely or nearly full, promote the exchange of harmless Chronic Patients for Patients whose case may be recent and supposed to be curable, or who shall be reported as dangerous."

We have thought it our duty, before recommending any such patients for discharge, to inquire into the provision made for their comfort and safety; and we have been deterred from some such recommendations by the consideration of the unfitness of most Union Houses, without special arrangements, for the reception of Lunatics; and from others, by the inadequate means of surveillance and protection which the circumstances and occupations of their relatives would have afforded.

State of some patients on admission.

Several patients were in a very precarious condition when admitted; in the cases of one man and two women, this was due to their mental disorder; and one woman was in a very advanced stage of phthisis, of which she speedily died.

Deaths.

It will be seen on reference to the Obituary Table (No. 7) that during 1855 all the deaths, save two, were due to changes in the nervous centres from the acute or chronic diseases which accompany Insanity in its various forms: this is very worthy of remark as the index of the good general health which has been enjoyed by the inmates, and the freedom from disease arising from epidemic or removeable causes.

Suicidal attempts.

There have been no inquests during the year. Only two patients (male) have made attempts at suicide—one, by strangulation by his cravat, the other, having, through the carelessness of an attendant concealed a dinner knife, inflicted a deep muscular wound in his throat, but no large vessel was injured, and the pharynx and larynx were both unopened. With reference to this case, a system of penalties has been adopted on our recommendation, which will, we hope, ensure in future more vigilance on the part of the attendants.

Penalties for carelessness of attendants

Recoveries.

In order to a just comparison of the recoveries recorded at this Asylum with those of other similar institutions, it is necessary that we should repeat the observation that here the term has been restricted to the cases of patients

whose minds have been completly restored; we have been content to call those relieved in whom the restoration was only partial.

The valuable provisions of the Probationary Clause in the Act of 1853, have during this year been made use of in nine instances, namely, three males and six females, and with the happiest result: in all the cases, save one, the patients have been able to remain out of the Asylum. Probationary Clause of Act 16 & 17 Vict., ch. 97, s. 79.

We have called the attention of the Committee of Visitors to the necessity of obtaining, in all these cases, a medical report of the patients' condition, and they have resolved upon the payment of a small fee for such reports; in several instances a small weekly sum has been allowed during the term of probationary absence from the Asylum. Medical Reports upon absent patients.

Among so large a number of patients employed in agricultural pursuits, it is remarkable how unfrequent have been the accidents, or acts of violence. In one case, however, one of the attendants, a simple, kind-hearted countryman, who had most certainly incurred no resentment, was violently struck on the head, from behind, by a mattock in the hand of a man suddenly seized with a homicidal impulse. This attendant's life was only saved by another patient who came to the rescue. Accidents, &c.

One patient, an epileptic, suffered a fracture of the collar-bone in a fall, which was united without the necessity for mechanical restraint.

The only change in the diet scale, which has been found necessary, and this more from hygienic than economic motives, has been the substitution, for the supper of the men on three days in the week, of a pint of good meat broth thickened with oatmeal, for the allowance of cheese and beer. This alteration awaits the sanction of the Commissioners in Lunacy. Diet.

During part of this year, the habit long since established of bathing all the females once in every week, has been interrupted by the defect of the baths and cisterns: these are being now efficiently repaired. Baths.

During the past year, it is only as an indispensable part of surgical treatment, that restraint has been employed, in the case of two patients only; in one, the suicidal patient above mentioned, for five days and ten nights, to prevent the re-opening of the wound; in the other, a female patient, for four days and two nights, to keep the dressings on a sloughing ulcer of the face. Restraint.

Seclusion. Restraint, by seclusion, has been very rare; in only eleven weeks out of fifty-two has it been used; never for more than two patients at one time—for the most part for one only.

Medical Treatment. With regard to the medical treatment of the inmates of this Asylum, we have little to add to the common stock of professional experience on the subject; but we are compelled to regard them in the light of patients, so few may be considered free from physical disease: this fact indicates care even in the application of amusement, much more of labour. The practice here has convinced us that the insane need all the aids of liberal diet, of stimulants, and of medicine, to support and restore their exhausted nervous energies; and, at the same time, the utmost vigilance is required to detect their diseases.

Tables. The statistics of last year's report have been extended in exactly the same forms, in the tables which follow.

G. W. W. FIRTH, Chir. Soc.
Visiting Medical Officer.

E. CASSON,
Resident Medical Officer.

Thorpe,
February 26th, 1856

APPENDIX

TABLE I.

Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, from May 18th, 1814, to December 31st, 1855.

	Male.	Female	Total.	Male.	Female	Total.
Admitted since May, 1814 . . .				1062	1255	2317
Discharged	467	638	1105			
Died	461	459	920			
				928	1097	2025
Remaining December 31st, 1854				137	163	300
Admitted during 1855				28	48	76*
Total under Treatment during 1855				165	211	376
Discharged—Recovered	10	16	26			
,, Ditto after Probation . .	2	6	8			
,, Relieved	5	9	14			
,, Not improved . . .	1	2	3			
Died	12	20	32			
Total Discharged and Died				30	53	83
Remaining in the Asylum, December 31st, 1855 . . .				135	158	293
Average Number Resident during the year 1855 . . .				135·25	161·33	296·58

* Fifteen of these have been Inmates of the Asylum before.

TABLE II.

Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, from May 18th, 1814, to December 31st, 1833, thence to December 31st, 1854, beginning the 1st day of each Year up to the last.

Number.	Years beginning May 18th.	Admissions during each Year.			Discharges during each Year.			Deaths. during each Year.			Average number resident in each Year.			Mean Annual Mortality per Cent. Resident.
		Male.	Female.	Total,	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1	1814	33	33	66	6	6	12	3	1	4	20	20	40	10·1
2	1815	15	18	33	7	17	24	6	2	8	30	30	60	13·3
3	1816	22	31	53	7	13	20	4	7	11	33	34	67	14·28
4	1817	24	20	44	10	15	25	4	6	10	47	40	87	11·49
5	1818	11	20	31	9	17	26	7	1	8	47	42	89	8·98
6	1819	18	16	34	10	10	20	4	3	7	46	40	86	8·13
7	1820	20	26	46	9	15	24	2	6	8	52	41	93	8·60
8	1821	18	29	47	12	13	25	12	7	19	50	44	94	20·21
9	1822	18	23	41	9	11	20	7	7	14	52	54	106	13·20
10	1823	11	16	27	8	11	19	11	6	17	54	48	102	16·66
11	1824	16	30	46	9	21	30	3	2	5	52	57	109	4 58
12	1825	13	28	41	12	20	32	3	8	11	55	59	114	9·64
13	1826	19	21	40	7	9	16	4	8	12	52	65	117	10·25
14	1827	19	15	34	12	13	25	12	8	20	56	56	112	17·86
15	1828	27	25	52	5	10	15	10	6	16	66	60	126	12·69
16	1829	21	23	44	13	11	24	11	14	25	65	67	132	18·94
17	1830	24	24	48	15	20	35	6	8	14	65	65	130	10·76
18	1831	35	41	76	10	15	25	13	8	21	78	82	160	14·0
19	1832	24	31	55	12	15	27	17	11	28	76	72	158	17·72
20	1833 May 1 to Dec. 31	17	19	36	10	12	22	8	9	17	75	84	159	15·93
21	1834	20	30	50	11	13	24	16	14	30	70	93	163	18·46
22	1835	28	22	50	13	14	27	18	10	28	75	94	169	13 60
23	1836	28	20	48	8	11	19	18	13	31	68	94	162	18·40
24	1837	25	21	46	9	8	17	17	15	32	68	96	164	19·25
25	1838	30	29	59	11	9	20	17	18	35	72	94	166	21·11
26	1839	24	24	48	6	12	18	19	14	33	70	94	164	20·12
27	1840	32	39	71	13	14	27	8	14	22	81	92	173	12·71
28	1841	29	31	60	11	7	18	18	14	42	80	90	170	24 70
29	1842	26	32	58	16	20	36	14	8	22	76	99	175	12·57
30	1843	31	38	69	17	20	37	21	22	43	72	95	167	26·35
31	1844	38	29	67	15	16	31	16	15	31	70	94	164	18·96
32	1845	32	42	74	14	10	24	11	17	28	80	86	166	16 88
33	1846	38	42	80	10	21	31	9	13	22	94	100	194	11·45
34	1847	29	41	70	12	19	31	18	18	36	95	105	200	18·0
35	1848	35	51	86	23	22	45	9	19	28	100	110	210	13·33
36	1849	40	51	91	19	18	37	18	17	35	115	120	235	14·89
37	1850	37	39	76	19	23	42	19	19	38	110	130	240	15·83
38	1851	33	52	85	10	16	26	12	14	26	120	140	260	10·0
39	1852	40	43	83	5	21	26	14	18	32	130	153	283	11·30
40	1853	36	47	83	20	26	46	19	17	36	139	165	304	11·70
41	1854	34	48	82	19	34	54	14	14	28	139	165	304	9·21
42	1855	28	48	76	18	33	51	12	20	32	135	161	296	10·81

TABLE III.

SHOWING THE FORM OF MENTAL DISEASE IN THE CASES REMAINING DEC. 31ST, 1854, AND IN THOSE ADMITTED DURING 1855, WITH THEIR COMPLICATIONS.

Form of Disease in Cases remaining 1st December, 1854.	Number of Cases.			General Paralysis			Partial Paralysis			Epilepsy			Suicidal tendency		
	M.	F.	To.	M.	F.	To	M.	F.	To	M.	F.	To	M.	F.	To
Mania (acute)	10	4	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
,, (chronic)	54	56	110	3	5	8	3	4	7	8	12	20	3	4	7
,,(remittent)	6	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Melancholia	22	37	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	10
Monomania	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dementia	33	42	75	3	3	6	5	3	8	2	5	7	0	0	0
Imbecility (congenital)	7	9	16	0	0	0	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idiotcy (congenital)	2	3	5	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	135	158	293	6	8	14	12	11	23	11	17	28	6	11	17

Form of Disease in Cases admitted in 1855.	Number of Cases.			General Paralysis			Partial Paralysis			Epilepsy			Suicidal tendency		
	M.	F.	To	M.	F.	To	M.	F.	To	M.	F	To	M.	F	T
Mania (acute)	3	9	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
,, (chronic)	3	10	13	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	2	2	1	1	2
,,(remittent)	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Melancholia	9	17	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	6
Monomania	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dementia	3	1	4	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Imbecility (congenital)	7	6	13	0	0	0	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idiotcy (congenital)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	48	76	0	0	0	5	5	10	2	3	5	3	5	8

TABLE IV.

Showing the Occupations of those Admitted in 1855.

Occupations.	M.	F.	Total.
Laborers, their Wives and Daughters	19	18	37
Domestic Servants	0	9	9
Pensioner, formerly a Soldier	1	0	1
Wheelwright	1	0	1
Housekeepers	0	3	3
Woodman's Wife	0	1	1
Carriers' Wives	0	3	3
Mariners and their Wives	1	2	3
Currier	1	0	1
Weaver	0	1	1
Hawker's Wife	0	1	1
Hair Dresser	1	0	1
Son of a Veterinary Surgeon	1	0	1
Farm Bailiff's Wife	0	1	1
Shoemaker and Wives	1	2	3
Shepherd's Wife	0	1	1
Charwoman	0	1	1
Carpenter	1	0	1
Shoebinder	0	1	1
Needlemaker	1	0	1
No occupation	0	4	4
Total	28	48	76

TABLE V.

Civil Condition of the Patients Admitted 1855.

Marriage.	Number Admitted.			Education.						Religion.									
				Able to Read and Write.		Able to Read only.		No Education.		Established Church.		Baptist.		Wesleyan.		Other Dissenters.		Not Ascertained.	
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Married	11	23	34	5	8	6	10	2	3	7	14	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	2
Widowed	5	9	14	2	3	2	4	1	2	2	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	0*	2
Single Men	12	0	12	4	0	5	0	3	0	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
,, Women	0	16	16	0	6	0	7	0	3	0	11	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2
Totals	28	48	76	11	17	13	21	6	8	19	33	1	5	3	3	2	3	1	6

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE CAUSES OF DISEASE SO FAR AS ASCERTAINED IN THOSE ADMITTED IN 1855.

CAUSES.	Male.	Female.	Total.
PREDISPOSING CAUSES:			
Hereditary Transmission	8	6	14
Injury to the Head	4	1	5
Child Bed	0	2	2
Religious Excitement	0	2	2
Jealousy	0	1	1
Age	3	4	7
Fever	2	4	6
Drinking	2	1	3
Poverty or Want	2	3	5
Former Attack	5	10	15
Change of Life	0	7	7
Unknown	2	7	9
Totals	28	48	76
EXCITING CAUSES:			
Fever	3	5	8
Old Age	7	9	16
Intemperance	3	2	5
Disorders of Menstruation	0	5	5
Child Bed	0	2	2
MORAL CAUSES:			
Love &c.	2	5	7
Grief for loss of Friends, Property, &c.	5	3	8
Religious Excitement (Mormons)	1	2	3
Domestic Cares and Troubles	2	7	9
Unknown	5	8	13
Totals	28	48	76

TABLE VII.

SHOWING THE CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1855.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
General Paralysis	0	1	1
Paralysis	0	1	1
Apoplexy	1	1	2
Serous Apoplexy	4	3	7
Epilepsy	2	2	4
Exhaustion from Mania	3	2	5
Chronic Disease of the Brain	1	7	8
Old Age	0	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Phthisis	0	1	1
Totals	12	20	30

TABLE VIII.

SHOWING THE AGES OF THOSE DISCHARGED RECOVERED, AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, IN 1855.

AGE.	Ages of those discharged Recovered.			Ages of those who have Died.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
From 15 to 20 years . .	3	2	5	0	0	0
,, 20 ,, 30 ,, . .	0	2	2	0	2	2
,, 30 ,, 40 ,, . .	4	5	2	4	4	8
,, 40 ,, 50 ,, . .	0	3	3	3	4	7
,, 50 ,, 60 ,, . .	3	7	10	1	4	5
,, 60 ,, 70 ,, . .	1	2	3	3	4	7
,, 70 ,, 80 ,, . .	0	1	1	0	2	2
,, 80 ,, 90 ,, . .	1	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	12	22	34	12	20	32

TABLE IX.

SHOWING THE DURATION OF DISEASE ON ADMISSION.

Duration of Disease on Admission.	Male.	Female,	Total.
FIRST CLASS:			
Cases of the First Attack of Insanity, of not more than three months duration , ...	6	13	19
SECOND CLASS:			
Cases of the First Attack, of more thon three months but not more than twelve months' duration . . .	3	5	8
THIRD CLASS:			
Cases not of the First Attack, and not more than twelve months' in duration	82	23	35
FOURTH CLASS:			
Cases of the First or *not* First Attack, and of more than twelve months' duration . i . .	7	7	14
Totals .	28	48	76

TABLE X.

SHOWING THE CLASSES IN REFERENCE TO THE DURATION OF THE DISEASE IN THOSE WHO HAVE RECONERED AND IN THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN 1855.

Duration of Disease on Admission.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
FIRST CLASS: First Attack, and within three months	1	6	7	4	5	9
SECOND CLASS: First Attack, above three but within twelve months . . .	1	6	7	0	0	0
THIRD CLASS: Not First Attack, and within twelve months	6	7	13	3	2	5
FOURTH CLASS: First Attack or not, and more than twelve months . . .	4	3	7	5	13	18
Totals . .	12	22	34	12	20	32

TABLE XI.

SHOWING THE DURATION OF RESIDENCE IN THE HOSPITAL OF THE 293 PATIENTS REMAINING ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1855.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 3 Months	6	7	13
From 3 to 6 Months . . .	3	8	11
„ 6 to 12 Months	7	12	19
„ 1 to 2 Years . . .	18	11	30
„ 2 to 5 „	81	40	71
„ 5 to 10 „ . . .	37	41	78
„ 10 to 15 „	14	24	28
„ 15 to 20 „ . . .	9	9	18
„ 20 to 25 „	5	3	8
„ 25 to 30 „ . . .	2	2	4
„ 30 to 35 „	2	1	3
Totals	135	158	293

TABLE XII.

Per Centages of the Year 1855.

	Per cent.
Of Admissions, on the Number remaining at the End of last Year . .	25·34
,, Readmissions on the Admissions	19·74
,, Cases of Repeated Attack on the Admissions . . .	6·58
,, Recoveries on the Admissions	44 74
,, Ditto on the mean Number Daily Resident	11 48
,, Ditto on the whole Number under Treatment	9·4
,, Deaths on the Admissions	42·10
,, Ditto on the mean Number Daily Resident	10 81
,, Ditto on the whole Number under Treatment . . .	8.51

TABLE XIII.

DIETARY FOR PATIENTS.

Days of the Week.	Breakfast. Males. Bread.	Breakfast. Males. Milk Broth.*	Breakfast. Females. Bread.	Breakfast. Females. Butter.	Breakfast. Females. Tea.†	Dinner, Males. Cooked Meat.‡	Dinner, Males. Meat Pie §	Dinner, Males. Meat Dumpling. ‖	Dinner, Males. Vegetables.¶	Dinner, Males. Bread.	Dinner, Males. Beer.	Dinner, Females. Cooked Meat.	Dinner, Females. Meat Pie.	Dinner, Females. Meat Dumpling.	Dinner, Females. Vegetables.	Dinner, Females. Bread.	Dinner, Females. Beer.	Supper. Males. Bread.	Supper. Males. Cheese.	Supper. Males. Beer.	Supper. Males. Meat Broth.	Supper. Females. Bread.	Supper. Females. Butter.
	oz.	pt.	oz.	oz.	pt.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pt.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pt.	oz.	oz.	pt.	pt.	oz	oz.
Sunday ...	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	4	..	..	12	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	..	..	12	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Monday ...	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	..	$10\frac{1}{2}$	..	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	$10\frac{1}{2}$	..	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	..	..	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Tuesday ...	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	4	..	..	12	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	..	..	12	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Wednesday	3	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	..	..	$10\frac{1}{2}$	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	$10\frac{1}{2}$	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	..	..	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Thursday	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	4	..	..	12	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	..	..	12	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Friday.....	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	..	$10\frac{1}{2}$	..	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	$10\frac{1}{2}$	..	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	..	..	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Saturday...	9	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	..	..	$10\frac{1}{2}$	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	$10\frac{1}{2}$	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	5	$\frac{1}{2}$

* The Milk Broth is made from $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of New Milk, thickened wilh Oatmeal, to which $\frac{1}{4}$ pint of water is added.

† 1 oz. of Tea; 4 oz. of Sugar; $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of Milk—to $5\frac{1}{4}$ pints.

‡ The Cooked Meat is without Bone, consists of Mutton or Beef, Roast or Boiled.

§ Meat Pie is made of $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of *Meat to* 8 *oz. Crust.*

‖ Meat Dumpling, $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of Meat to 8 oz. of Crust.

¶ 12 oz. of Potatoes, or if other Vegetables, at least 6 oz. Potatoes.

EXTRA DIET:—For Out-door Workers, Artizans, and Laundry Women, &c., $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of Beer, with Bread and Cheese, at 11 o'clock a.m , and 4 p. m.

County Lunatic Asylum,
Thorpe near Norwich,
January 1st, 1856.

Gentlemen,

I had the honour, at the commencement of 1855, of submitting to you a Report of such matters as came more immediately under my cognizance as Superintendent of this Institution; and I now beg leave to bring under your notice some points relating to its condition and management during the past year.

The present numbers of the Patients are 136 Males and 157 Females; the numbers of Patients in the Asylum at the corresponding period of last year were 137 Males and 163 Females.

Strict attention continues to be paid to the Diet of the Patients, which is good in quality and sufficient in quantity.

The Clothing of the Patients, as remarked in my former report, has been undergoing change, from uniformity in colour and form, to the variety in both these respects which ordinarily prevails among the labouring class in this County. Care is, however, used in seeing to the warmth, comfort, and cleanliness of the clothing. The same remark applies to the Bedding of the Patients.

The beneficial effects of suitable employment on the health and spirits of the Patients, while the value of their labour has been considerable, has induced me most cheerfully to carry out the views of the Resident Medical Officer, in bringing every Patient at all fit for work, to be engaged in some industrial occupation.

The average number of Patients daily employed is 184; viz. 66 Males and 118 Females. This gives a per centage of 62·2 on the total number of Patients, or a per centage of 48·9 on the Males, and 73·3 on the Females. Table (B.) in the Appendix shows the daily average in each month of Patients

employed on each description of work. The daily average of the year is as follows :—

MALES.

Garden and Pleasure Grounds . .	13
North Farm . .	21
Turners', Painters', and Carpenters' Shop	3
Shoemakers' Shop . .	3
Tailors' and Upholsterers' Shop .	5
Kitchen and Bakehouse .	3
Drying House . .	2
Helpers in the Wards . .	14
In Stable . .	1
As Stoker . .	1

FEMALES.

Laundry . . .		24
Kitchen . . .		6
Helpers in the Wards . .		11
Cleaners in Corridors and other places		10
Work-room	Needle-work	41
	Fancy-work	10
	Straw Bonnet	1
Stocking Knitting . .		13
In the Establishment .		1
Drying House . .		1

The operations connected with the Garden and Farm, afford healthful occupation for 51·5 of the total number of Males employed.

The Appendix (p. 23) contains a list of articles made and repaired on the premises by the Shoemakers and Tailors. It will be seen that 230 articles were made during the year, and 3023 repaired. By reference to p. 25 of the Appendix, it will be observed that the articles of every description made on the Female side of the Asylum number 3024.

Instruction and Amusement have received during the year the attention

which their importance claims for them: various publications have been in constant circulation amongst the Patients, many of whom derive pleasure from reading. Illustrated Publications are in special demand. Several excursions, which the Patients greatly enjoyed, were undertaken during the summer, to places of interest in the neighbourhood. The Cricket Ground was also a favourite resort to many while the weather permitted. The winter evenings have been enlivened by gatherings of the Patients, Male and Female, for dancing, singing, and recitations; and I am happy to add, that these exercises have uniformly been conducted with propriety and decorum.

I have much satisfaction in bearing testimony to the care and attention which the attendants generally manifest in the performance of their duties. On this must greatly depend, not only the comfort of the Patients, but the chance of their ultimate recovery; and I am very sure, that were such care and attention not rendered willingly and from a sense of duty, they could be but imperfectly enforced by the most vigilant superintendence on my part.

During the year much progress has been made in improving the interior appearance of the Wards: fixed seats and tables have been removed and replaced by neat and substantial furniture. The walls of the Day-rooms and Corridors have been papered and ornamented with a goodly variety of prints and landscapes.

I have the honor to be,

Gentleman,

Your most obedient Servant,

EBENEZER OWEN,

Superintendent.

To the Visiting Justices of the
NorfolkCounty Lunatic Asylum.

[A.]

SUPERINTENDENT'S FARM AND GARDEN ACCOUNT.,

From January 1st, 1855, to January 1st, 1856.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
1855.				
Jan. 1st.	Balance in hand -	68	4	7
	By Sale of Pigs during the year - -	73	18	0
	,, Turnips -	15	9	6
	,, Wheat -	6	16	6
	,, Bones -	13	0	$1\frac{3}{4}$
	Rent of Cottages -	11	2	0
	Treasurer on account of Vegetables & Pork consumed in the Asylum	50	0	0
Dec. 31.	Value of Live Stock	80	0	0
	Due for Vegetables and 1904 lbs. of Pork, consumed in house -	164	4	$7\frac{1}{2}$
	Extra labour for other purposes by horses and man - - -	16	10	0
	Total	£499	5	$4\frac{1}{4}$

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
1855.				
Jan. 1st.	Value of Live Stock -	60	0	0
	Live Stock purchased during the year - -	74	18	6
	Implements, Harness, and Shoeing - -	55	6	7
	Manure - - -	0	17	6
	Labour - - -	41	5	6
	Seeds - - -	8	9	2
	Provender - -	16	16	3
	Rates and Tithes -	20	7	7
Dec 31.	Cash in hand - -	20	9	$7\frac{3}{4}$
	Swill & Bones from House	23	15	0
	Rent of Land, 27 acres at 35s. - - -	47	5	0
	By Balance in favour of farm - - -	129	14	$7\frac{1}{2}$
	Total	£499	5	$4\frac{1}{4}$

[B.]

NORFOLK COUNTY ASYLUM.

DAILY AVERAGE OF PATIENTS EMPLOYED DURING EACH MONTH.

1855.

MALES.	Jan.	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May.	June	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Gardens and Pleasure Grounds -	11	12	13	12	12	17	13	14	13	14	16	12
North Farm - - - -	17	14	12	26	24	25	22	20	30	29	20	11
Turners', Painters', and Carpenters' Shop - - - - -	4	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	3
Tailors' and Upholsterers' Shop -	7	5	4	6	5	6	6	5	5	5	4	4
Shoemakers' ditto - - -	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	4	3	3	3	3
Kitchen and Bake-house - -	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2
Foul Linen House - - -	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Helpers in the Wards - - -	13	14	14	14	14	12	13	13	12	13	15	16
In Stable - - - - -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
As Stoker - - - - -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At Basket Making - - -			1	1								
Total Number Employed - -	62	57	57	73	68	73	68	67	73	72	66	55
Average Number of Patients -	135	137	135	136	138	138	135	134	133	133	133	136
FEMALES.												
Laundry - - - - -	23	23	22	22	24	24	27	24	24	24	23	22
Kitchen - - - - -	7	6	6	6	5	6	7	7	6	6	6	6
Helpers in the Wards - -	11	12	13	11	11	11	10	11	12	11	10	11
Cleaners in Corridors and other places	9	9	8	10	11	11	11	11	10	11	12	12
Work Room: Needle Work	48	45	42	40	38	40	39	43	42	42	38	36
Work Room: Fancy Work	7	9	11	12	12	11	11	11	9	9	12	11
Work Room: Straw Bonnet Making	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	
Stocking Knitting - - -	10	12	13	11	12	10	9	12	12	12	14	14
Cravat Knitting - - - -	1	1						1				
In the Establishment - - -	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Foul Linen House - - -				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Number Employed - -	119	119	118	116	116	116	117	122	118	118	118	114
Average Number of Patients -	166	163	162	162	159	161	162	161	161	159	160	160

[C.]

NORFOLK COUNTY ASYLUM.

CONTRACT PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF CONSUMPTION.

1855.

		Quarter ending 26th March.	Quarter ending 25th June.	Quarter ending 24th Sept.	Quarter ending 24th Dec.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bread	per score loaves of 2lbs. each	0 5 4	0 5 7	0 5 7	0 6 11¾
Flour	per sack	2 14 11	2 9 6	2 9 6	2 19 11
Meat	per stone	0 7 4	0 6 11	0 6 11	0 7 2
Suet	per stone	0 7 4	0 6 11	0 6 11	0 7 2
Cheese, Gloucester	per cwt.	3 10 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 14 0
Cheese, Derby	per cwt.	3 9 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 14 0
Butter	per pint	0 1 6	0 1 3	0 1 3	0 1 7
Oatmeal	per peck	0 1 8	0 1 8	0 1 8	0 2 0
Rice	per lb.	0 0 2	0 0 2¼	0 0 2	0 0 2½
Tea, black	per lb.	0 3 1	0 3 1	0 3 3	0 3 3
Tea, green	per lb.	0 3 6	0 3 6	0 3 8	0 3 8
Sugar, raw	per stone	0 4 6	0 4 1½	0 4 1½	0 5 9
Sugar, loaf	per stone	0 6 0	0 5 7½	0 5 7½	0 7 3
Coffee	per lb.	0 1 0	0 0 11	0 0 11	0 1 3
Milk	per gallon	0 0 8	0 0 8	0 0 8	0 0 8
Beer	per barrel	1 4 0	1 4 0	1 4 0	1 3 0
Porter	per barrel	2 13 0	2 13 0	2 13 0	2 11 0
Arrowroot	per lb.	0 1 4	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 0 9
Salt	per cwt.	0 2 3	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Mustard	per lb.	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 1
Tobacco	per lb.	0 3 8	0 3 8	0 3 8	0 3 8
Snuff, Scotch	per lb.	0 4 6	0 4 6	0 4 6	0 4 6
Coals	per ton	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Coke	per chaldron	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 2 0
Candles, dips	per lb.	0 0 7¾	0 0 5¾	0 0 5¾	0 0 7¼
Soap, yellow	per cwt.	1 17 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 14 0
Starch	per cwt.	0 0 5	0 0 6	0 0 6	0 0 6